

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 02850 011522Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 011339Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2255

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AU

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S PARTY VICTORIOUS IN SALZBURG ELECTIONS

REF: VIENNA 2827

1. SALZBURG PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS HELD YESTERDAY (MARCH 31)
RESULTED IN GREATER THAN ANTICIPATED GAINS FOR PEOPLE'S PARTY (OEVP),

MAINTAINED LOSING TREND FOR SOCIALISTS (SPOE) IN PROVINCIAL
AND LOCAL ELECTIONS (EXCEPT FOR VIENNA) AND PRODUCED
EXPECTED SLIGHT LOSS FOR FREEDOM PARTY (FPOE).

2. BY COMPARISON TO 1969 ELECTIONS, OEVP IMPROVED ITS PER-
CENTAGE FROM 40.7 TO 47.1; THE SOCIALISTS WENT FROM 40.4
TO 36.3; WHILE FPOE RECEDED FROM ALL-TIME HIGH OF 18 TO 15.5.
THE COMMUNISTS RECEIVED 1.2 PERCENT COMPARED TO 0.7 PERCENT
IN 1969. THE NEXT PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE WILL HAVE OEVP
MAJORITY OF 18 REFLECTING GAIN OF 3 MANDATES (2 FORMERLY HELD
BY SPOE AND 1 FROM FPOE); SPOE-13; FPOE-5; COMMUNISTS NONE.
GOVERNOR LECHNER WILL HAVE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT WITH 4 FROM OEVP; 2-SPOE AND FPOE RETAINING ITS
SINGLE SEAT.

3. SIGNIFICANT GAINS FOR OEVP ATTRIBUTED TO FACTORS NOTED IN
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REFTEL, NAMELY, POPULARITY OF GOVERNOR LECHNER (FOR WHOM

SOCIALIST CANDIDATE STEINOCHEER WAS NO MATCH), OEVP'S SHREWD EXPLOITATION OF INFLATIONARY SITUATION FOR WHICH IT BLAMED SOCIALIST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND DISCONTENT AMONG FARMERS. INTERESTINGLY, PEOPLE'S PARTY VICTORY IN PART ATTRIBUTABLE TO GAINS IN URBAN CENTER WHICH ARE TRADITIONALLY SOCIALIST STRONGHOLDS.

4. WHILE COMPLETE RETURNS NOT YET AVAILABLE FOR MARCH 31 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN TYROL PROVINCE, IT IS CLEAR THAT OEVP REGISTERED GAINS THERE AS WELL AT EXPENSE OF SPOE.

5. DETAILED ANALYSIS OF ELECTION RESULTS TO FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.
HUMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, PARTY STRENGTH, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENNA02850
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740071-0956
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740476/aaaacrye.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: VIENNA 2827
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEOPLE'S PARTY VICTORIOUS IN SALZBURG ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, AU, OEVP, SPOE, FPOE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005